

DDR-14-62

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

20 March 1962

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SUBJECT: Visit [REDACTED] to the DCI on 19 March 1962

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1. The primary purpose of [REDACTED] visit was to discuss the recent developments in the detection of underground nuclear explosions. He reported that the meetings over the weekend with U. S. scientists had provided preliminary data which gave considerable hope of eventually improving the ability to detect nuclear explosions. While these new techniques might eventually also decrease the threshold at which some earthquakes could be identified, there was no data present to indicate they could specifically identify explosions. Therefore they would never eliminate inspections. They also offered some hope that data collected externally to the USSR would be a useful cross-check on the validity of data obtained by [REDACTED]

25X1X3 [REDACTED] However, the data is still very preliminary and considerable research will be required before any change in the present [REDACTED] negotiating position would be warranted.

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2. [REDACTED] also raised the question of the desirability of U. S. carrying out full missile systems tests in the forthcoming nuclear test series. He questioned their technical validity and indicated concern that such a move might lead to the Soviets firing ICBMs with nuclear warheads into the Pacific thereby escalating the entire nuclear testing situation. The DCI agreed that this could be a serious matter and requested me to arrange [REDACTED] to make a brief study on the Soviet reaction to such U. S. systems tests.

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*HS*  
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Deputy Director  
(Research)

cc: AD/NE  
DAD/SI

DDR/HS:djm  
✓DDR Chrono  
1-DDR Subject - Nuclear Tests